

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 14-0890V

Filed: September 28, 2015

UNPUBLISHED

MARGARET RANDLE, mother and
natural guardian for K.R., *
*
*

Petitioner,
v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES, *
*
*

Respondent. *
*

* Attorney Fees and Costs; Stipulation
Special Processing Unit ("SPU")

Jeffrey S. Pop, Beverly Hills, CA, for petitioner.
Lara Ann Englund, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS¹

DORSEY, Chief Special Master:

On September 22, 2014, Margaret Randle, the mother and natural guardian of K.R., filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² [the "Vaccine Act" or "Program"]. Petitioner alleges that K.R. suffered from Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) as a result of an influenza (flu) and/or meningococcal vaccinations she received on October 11, 2013. Petition at 3; Stipulation, filed Sept. 25, 2015, ¶ 4. On September 28, 2015, the undersigned issued a decision awarding compensation to petitioner based on the parties' stipulation.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioners have 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

On September 25, 2015, the parties filed a Stipulation of Fact Concerning Attorneys' Fees and Costs. According to the stipulation, the parties agree upon an award of \$18,343.45. In accordance with General Order #9, petitioner's counsel represents that petitioner incurred no out-of-pocket expenses.

The Vaccine Act permits an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-15(e). The undersigned finds the proposed amount to be reasonable.

Accordingly, the undersigned awards the total of \$18,343.45,³ as a lump sum in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner and petitioner's counsel, Jeffrey S. Pop.

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See generally *Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

⁴ Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).